

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00769 221010Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

PC-01 ACDA-12 SCS-06 CA-01 OPR-02 HA-05 SY-05

A-01 ARA-10 /122 W

-----076483 221015Z /17

O P 220631Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6140

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 769H

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PORG, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INTERVENTION: RWANDAN REACTION

REF KIGALI 745

1. WORD OFFRENCH PARA-COMMANDO DROP INTO KOLWEZI HAD  
BEGUN FILTERING INTO KIGALI EARLY THIS MORNING AND WAS  
SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION AT 6:00 AM AIRPORT DEPARTURE  
CEREMONIES FOR PRESIDENT AND FONMIN, ENROUTE TO PARIS  
FOR FRANCOPHONE CONFERENCE.

2. REACTION AMONG RWANDANS WAS MIXED AND, FRANKLY,  
PERPLEXING. IN AN UNACCUSTOMED HURRY TO BOARD HIS PLANE,  
PRESIDENT CHATTED WITH NO ONE AND HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT  
SHABA OR ANYTHING ELSE. FONMIN, WHO TWO DAYS BEFORE HAD  
WARNED ME THAT OUR "CREDIBILITY" WAS BEING TESTED IN SHABA,  
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00769 221010Z

AND THAT CUBAN/SOVIET ADVANCES IN AFRICA HAD TO BE CHECKED  
(REFTEL, PREFERRED THIS MORNING NOT TO COMMENT. ON ARRIVAL IN  
PARIS, FONMIN EXPLAINED, HABYARIMANA WOULD MAKE GENERAL  
STATEMENT COVERING SHABA EVENTS.

3. OTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE RWANDA OFFICIALS WERE SIMILARLY  
HESITANT TO COMMENT. TWO EXCEPTIONS: FONOFF SECGEN

RENZAHO (WHO IS STRONGLY CONVINCED OF DIRECT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND CRITICAL OF ZAMBIAN "COMPLICITY") APPLAUDED WESTERN ACTION. MININT SEC GEN HABARUSHAKA, ON OTHER HAND, VEHEMENTLY CRITICIZED WHAT HE TERMED ANOTHER CHAPTER IN "SUPERPOWER STRUGGLE FOR INFLUENCE AT EXPENSE OF AFRICANS."

4. MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE ENCOUNTERED SIMILARLY LITTLE RESONANCE AMONG RWANDANS AT AIRPORT AND IS UNEASY OVER HOW HABYARIMANA AND OTHER FRANCOPHONE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ARE LIKELY TO BEHAVE IN PARIS. BELGIAN AMB SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH HABYARIMANA LATE LAST NIGHT TO FILL HIM IN BUT NOTED NO PARTICULAR REACTION.

5. COMMENT: THESE INITIAL REACTIONS -- OR PERHAPS NON-REACTIONS -- SEEM LESS THAN CONSISTENT WITH RWANDA'S BASIC COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE AND GOR'S CONSTANT FRETTING OVER CUBANS. I SUSPECT IT BETRAYS VISCERAL MISGIVINGS RELATED TO RACE AND AFRICAN NATIONALIST PRIDE WHICH COMMONLY RISE TO SURFACE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. UNFORTUNATELY, PUBLIC EMPHASIS WHICH WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE QUITE PROPERLY PLACED ON PROTECTING THEIR OWN NATIONALS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED SUCH MISGIVINGS, CONVEYING IMPRESSION TO RWANDANS THAT WE REALLY CARED MUCH LESS ABOUT ZAIRE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OR CUBA'S DESTABILIZING MISCHIEF THAN WE PREVIOUSLY AVOWED. AS ONE RWANDAN REMARKED, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00769 221010Z

"WHO'S GOING TO RESCUE THE HUNDREDS OF RWANDAN MINERS TRAPPED IN KOLWEZI?"

6. OUR BETTING IS THAT HABYARIMANA STATEMENT IN PARIS WILL CONDEMN OUTSIDE INTERVENTION OF ALL SORTS AND ADD A SENGHOR-LIKE APPEAL TO ALL AFRICANS TO RESIST TEMPTATION TO CALL FOR GREAT POWER HELP FROM EITHER EAST OR WEST.  
CRIGLER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, MOPS, PORG, CG, FR, RW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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